

SURVAY SHORING BLAMED IN FATAL DROP OF STREET

Defective Timbering, and
Not Blast, Responsible,
Says District Attorney.

CLEAR FOREMAN WHO FIRED CHARGE

Public Service Commission Hastens
to Inspect Other Sections
Undermined by Tube Work.

Defective shoring and not blasting was responsible for the Seventh Avenue subway collapse of Wednesday morning was the decision of District Attorney Perkins yesterday. He had the much sought blast foreman, August Merzante, also called "Midnight," before him for an hour, and after hearing his version of the affair dismissed him, convinced that he was in no way culpable.

At the same time he dismissed the notion that the blast was the fundamental cause of the catastrophe. He had ample testimony from many witnesses, he said, that the shock which started the defective shoring going to pieces was of only ordinary force.

"Even if the blast had been too heavy it could not at most have damaged more than fifty feet of the timbering," he said. "But here, after an ordinary blast, we have 400 feet of it collapsing. It would be just as sensible for me to have this blast foreman arrested as it would be to arrest me for going up and looking at the wreckage."

The shock of the accident jolted the Public Service Commission yesterday into feverish activity along the line of inspecting temporary street underpinning in subway construction throughout the city. As if not sure as to the safety of the work under the commission's control, practically the whole inspection force was ordered to get busy.

Literary Force at Work.

In addition to this the commission's literary force was put to work issuing statements, one of which was in the nature of a defence of the "cut and cover" method of work, of which the section that caved in was one form.

No one came out yesterday with a definite statement of opinion as to just the nature of the fault in the shoring method used, although many engineers who looked over the situation pointed out privately what they believed were faults. Senator Thompson, chairman of the legislative committee investigating public service commissions, received a statement from a prominent engineer setting forth that the underpinning was plainly defective, which the Public Service Commission engineers had approved it.

Senator Thompson called Commissioner Hayward into conference to discuss the matter, and the place in the situation. He said afterward that many persons had brought facts to his attention, and urged him to start an investigation, but that he would wait until the committee had finished its work.

One great defect in the method employed, according to a report made to the Public Service Commission, was that the cross frames were bound together by means of a single bolt, the length of the cavity, so that when one person went, all the others were pulled down in turn after it. In mines the practice is to bind the frames together in separate groups.

Bound by Trolley Rails.

Robert Ridgway, engineer in charge of subway construction, said that the surface car lines on top of the shoring, consisting of steel rails in a concrete bed, bound together with steel, restricted the movement of the shoring, and the whole section together, and that if one part went, it by its weight and tensile strength would pull the others down.

Merzante, who had charged with the blasting, gave a detailed description of just what happened. He is forty-five years old and lives with his wife and six children at 6 Jones Street. He has been at the blasting business ten years, and said he never before had had an accident.

"I got to the work at 7 o'clock with a gang of six drill runners, a powder chest, a deep hole, and a stick of dynamite," he said. "I went to the magazine at Twenty-third Street and Seventh Avenue and got twenty-five nine-ounce sticks of 40 per cent dynamite. We loaded three blasts before we started."

"The first blast was of one hole, in which I put three-quarters of a stick of dynamite. This was set off at 7:50 o'clock. It was on the floor of the excavation."

"The second blast, which was the one just before the cave-in, consisted of four holes at different angles within a space of twelve feet on the bench, four feet back from the face of the excavation. The holes were nine feet deep, and in each hole I placed three nine-ounce sticks of dynamite."

"Third Blast Not Fired."

"Did you cover the place to prevent fragments of rock from flying?" the District Attorney asked.

"No, it is not customary in the case of such deep holes," he said. "We only cover in case of shallow holes. The third blast, which was never set off, but was loaded, contained two holes, in which I placed three and three-fourth sticks. After all was loaded I told the powder monkey to take the remaining five pounds and the detonators back to the magazine."

"The first blast was fired and nothing happened. Then we got ready for the second. I sent a man down the excavation to warn all workmen out and then went to the street with the rest of the gang. I sent the powder monkey to take the remaining five pounds and the detonators back to the magazine."

"I saw the car coming and motioned to Umberto Girardi to stop it. The car came right up to him and stopped."

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Ford Explores Submarine; 16 Times Too Big, He Says



Henry Ford going aboard E-2, on inspection tour of United States undersea craft.

Inventor Sees Undersea Craft for First Time—Shakes Head Over Cost After Inspecting K-5 and E-2 at Navy Yard Docks.

Henry Ford, who proposes to revolutionize submarine warfare, had his first experience aboard a submarine yesterday. He visited two of the submersible craft of the United States navy at the New York yard, in anticipation of turning out one of his own inventions.

No fewer than ten stout hawkers held each of the submarines to the wharf while the automobile man made his inspection. It had been rumored that he would be taken for an underwater trip about the harbor, but none of the sailors made a motion to release the craft. Mr. Ford did not care to crowd his sensations.

Free from a conference with Secretary Daniels and President Wilson, he came to New York from Washington Wednesday evening.

Emerging from the conning tower of the E-2, the second craft visited yesterday, Mr. Ford said:

"I think they are sixteen times too large and cost sixteen times too much."

"Has your inspection of a submarine for the first time given you new ideas that will lead to a revolution in their construction or from which you will evolve a new type?" some one inquired.

Although he is a member of the President's advisory board of naval defense, Mr. Ford is nevertheless a pacifist. "I would like to abolish their manufacture," was his answer.

Considering his recent statement that a small type of submarine operated by one or two men was the logical undersea defence of the future, Mr. Ford yesterday hardly seemed enthusiastic. He admitted that he picked up some new ideas—he never went anywhere without doing that, he declared—and that he might submit them to the naval advisory board for what they were worth. He arrived at the navy yard shortly after 11 o'clock. He was accompanied by his son, Edsel, and Gaston.

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2 POLICEMEN SHOT AT M'ANUS PARTY

One Dying—Bullets Fly at Manhattan Casino During Row.

Two policemen were shot, one fatally, the other seriously, when the party of the Thomas J. McManus Association in the Manhattan Casino broke up in a fight early this morning.

The dying policeman is supposed to be William Dapping, shield No. 5,351. The one seriously wounded is James Bishop.

Bishop was shot through the eye. Before being removed to the hospital, Father Plunkett, of St. Mark's Church, administered the last rites of the Church.

Bishop was shot through the chest. Another policeman, Patrolman Darling, was injured in the fight that followed the arrest of a man giving his name as Thomas O'Neil, and his home as 1408 Eighth Avenue, and the man who did the shooting.

McManus, known as The McManus, has been having a hard time holding control of his Assembly district. Yesterday he gave his annual party, and at its height there were 5,000 persons in and about the Casino. Just before 1 o'clock a fight started in the bar room, in which revolvers were freely used. The policeman supposed to be Dapping was off duty, but swung into the mix-up until stopped by a shot.

Bishop, the other policeman, was also off duty.

O'Neil, according to the police, was seen to fire several shots.

SILK STOCKING BANK "BUSTS"

"Banker" Sued for \$53 She Lost While at Luna Park.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Cleveland, Sept. 23.—Municipal Judge Cull ruled to-day that it was gross negligence for a woman to carry \$86 in silk stockings while enjoying an outing at Luna Park.

The case was being tried by Judge Cull. The plaintiff, Mrs. Jennie Haddad, was suing Mrs. Emily Clodell, both of this city, for \$53 which, she said, she gave Mrs. Clodell. The plaintiff alleged that she lost the money out of her silk stockings. Mrs. Clodell told the judge that she was in the habit of making a bank of her stockings, and never before had lost any money. She was unable to explain how the stocking bank was "busted."

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OSBORNE-RILEY FEUD IS AGAIN NEARING CLIMAX

On Grand Jury Results
Riley Hopes Governor
Will Allow Removal.

WARDEN OFFERS AID TO DISTRICT ATT'Y

Says in Port Chester, Riley Might Visit the Prison Occasionally.

Indications were plain in Albany and White Plains yesterday that the fight of John B. Riley, Superintendent of Prisons, to force Thomas Mott Osborne from the wardenship of Sing Sing is again approaching a climax, with Riley relying upon what may be developed by a grand jury investigation to furnish an excuse for Osborne's decapitation.

Osborne and District Attorney Weeks of Westchester conferred for an hour yesterday on the proposed grand jury investigation. At the close of the conference both men refused to talk. While this conference was in session John B. Riley, Superintendent of Prisons, was in Albany planning to lay his case against Osborne before Governor Whitman on his return to his desk. In Albany last night Riley said he had nothing new to present to the Governor at this time.

Talking in Port Chester last night, Warden Osborne said the trouble in Sing Sing is largely due to "reporter's imagination," referring particularly to the recent search of cells by William A. Orr, Governor Whitman's secretary, and a fight that is alleged to have broken up a session of the Mutual Welfare court.

"The Governor received a letter," said Mr. Osborne, "informing him of violent conditions at Sing Sing prison. This was signed by two men not in good standing at the prison. The Governor sent Mr. Orr to the prison. I was spending a few days in the Adirondacks. Mr. Church received Mr. Orr. Mr. Orr spoke with the two men. These men told Mr. Orr that six guns and some cartridges had been smuggled into the prison, but nothing was found in any of the cells."

The warden was asked if he had any more to make on Superintendent Riley's request for a grand jury investigation of conditions in Sing Sing. "It is the superintendent's duty to force Osborne out," he replied. "It might be well for him to come down to the prison himself. I have heard nothing of his own investigation."

Osborne's opponents in Westchester and in Albany were of the opinion last night that Riley is at last in a position to force Osborne out. In this connection the word was passed in Westchester last night that there would be big developments to-day. The nature of these developments was not disclosed.

The charges which the grand jury is expected to investigate deal with assaults in and escapes from Sing Sing. In Young Straus' case, it is also charged. Similar conditions, it is asserted, exist in the other prisons of the state, notably Clinton, over which Mr. Riley exercises almost direct personal supervision, but the district attorney's office has not yet been asked to act. Instead, it is stated at the Albany office of the Prison Department, letters were sent to the several warden's instructing them to take what action may be deemed necessary to correct evils.

STRAUS BOY RACES 528 MILES FOR LIFE

Son of Macy's Head Reaches Denver in Time for Operation That Prevents His Death.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Denver, Sept. 23.—Percy S. Straus, Jr., son of the president of R. H. Macy & Co., was rushed here on a Santa Fe special train from Albuquerque, N. M., last night and arrived in time to undergo an operation for an abscess which saved his life. The train covered the 528 miles in less than twelve hours, establishing a record run. In many places it ran eighty miles an hour.

Young Straus and his father were en route to Denver on a pleasure trip when the boy became suddenly ill. Physicians declared his life could not be saved without an operation. Straus was advised to leave at once for Denver, where he might obtain the best possible hospital facilities, and was warned that he would have to hurry. He immediately chartered a special train of three coaches.

India Won't Let Cook Climb

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Sept. 24.—"The Daily Mail" says that Dr. Cook has been kicking his heels in Calcutta for the last few weeks, waiting for permission to proceed to Nepal to climb Mount Everest. The government has refused to grant him permission, and accordingly Dr. Cook and his party will leave India on September 30.

ASBURY BEER GOES AWRY

Five Tons on Way to Prohibition Centre in Peril.

Asbury Park may be the pride of the advocates of nation-wide prohibition, but just listen:

Red Bank, N. J., Sept. 23.—A seven-ton truck, carrying five tons of beer, consigned according to the chauffeur, to Asbury Park, crashed through the plankings of Hubbard's Bridge here to-day.

This evening no one could be found to chance the rescue of the beverage, the rear of the truck hanging but a few inches above the waters of the Shrewsbury.

Mrs. Pinchot Loses Jewels.

Police Headquarters was notified yesterday by Mrs. Gifford Pinchot of the loss of two diamond rings and a silver watch from her home in Milford, Penn. The jewels, considered invaluable by the Pinchot family because of the fact that they are heirlooms, are worth \$500. The police were requested to notify the pawn shops. The heirlooms disappeared last week.

JOHN D., JR., TRIPS TO "TIPPERARY" WITH MINE MAIDS

Spryly Does the Hesitation with Girls in Calico—All Got a Chance.

PRESSED FOR TIME, EATS UNWASHED

Dust of a Long, Hot Ride Still on Him as He Lunches with Crowd of Workers.

Walsenburg, Col., Sept. 23.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr., continuing his tour of inspection of Colorado Fuel & Iron Company mines, to-night reached Walsenburg, forty-five miles north of Trinidad. The trip was made by motor car and the cool mine owner jolted all day over twisting roads through the hill country of Las Animas and Huerfano counties.

To-night the former leader of the Bible class at the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church dined in a little schoolhouse at the Cameron mine, 2,000 miles from Broadway, with Mrs. Charles Kaiser, the pretty wife of the mine superintendent. Mr. Rockefeller glided over the none too smooth floor to the strains of "Tipperary."

Mine Orchestra Was Lusty.

The music was lustily emitted by an orchestra consisting of a snare drum, a clarinet, a trombone and an accordion. W. L. Mackenzie King and other members of the Rockefeller party also participated in the dance, choosing their partners from among the wives and daughters of coal diggers and mine officials.

Mr. Rockefeller himself arranged the dance. He attended an entertainment at the schoolhouse, given in his honor by the Cameron Club, an organization of miners.

Near the end of the entertainment Mr. Rockefeller made a speech. After referring jocularly to the manner in which he had "checked the house" by bringing his numerous personal entourage and a still more numerous party of newspaper correspondents, he said:

"I've often danced to that tune the orchestra played a little while ago. We haven't wondered if when this entertainment is over and the older people have gone home we couldn't move these chairs out and have a dance. Don't you think we could arrange it?"

There was unanimous assent. A few minutes later the master of ceremonies, C. H. Hawksworth, announced that the entertainment was at an end and that the dance would follow.

All Wanted to Dance.

"Those who want to dance may stay here," he said. "Any who don't care to dance, we will make welcome at the clubhouse. None went to the clubhouse. No miner directed to the hithering of the orchestra was negotiated. The orchestra launched forth. Two or three miners with their sweethearts were on the floor in a trice. Then W. L. Mackenzie King chose a partner and sallied forth.

Mr. Rockefeller hesitated no longer. Bowing to Mrs. Kaiser, who had been his hostess at dinner, he offered his arm, led her to the dancing floor, and hopped gracefully through the heterogeneous throng of coal diggers' mine officials and miners' wives and daughters.

After his initial step with Mrs. Kaiser, Mr. Rockefeller danced with practically every woman and girl in the room. Officials' wives and daughters in graceful summer silks and coal diggers' wives in calico all were included in his invitations. "Hesitation" waits for the orchestra was negotiated by Mr. Rockefeller with skill and apparent experience.

In the course of the journey Rockefeller visited mining camps at Rouse, Lester, Ideal and Cameron. At Rouse, in a conference with the miners' grievance representative, he went on record with the unequivocal statement that he did not oppose its employees belonging to unions.

As Mr. Rockefeller was leaving the boarding house at Lester, where he had lunched with a crowd of miners and their wives, he was told that there was a general feeling here that the company's employees were not allowed to walk up those steps."

Colonel House smiled, but kept on walking. The policeman had just started after him in a more or less threatening attitude, when the doors opened, and the doorman, with a deep bow, waved the colonel inside.

Soon afterward the Acting Secretary of State telegraphed to the State Department and Mr. House. The same policeman was on guard, and Mr. Polk was also warned.

When the policeman was told who the two distinguished visitors were he said: "Well, you know a lot of cranks come around here, so I've got to be careful."

Colonel House expects to be the guest of the President for several days. His visit is said to be a social one, but there is a general feeling here that many important questions will be discussed, especially the Mexican situation.

HE'S HEARING THEM AGAIN

Dutch Correspondent Reports Heavy Firing in North Sea.

London, Sept. 23.—Reports of a battle in the North Sea were revived to-day.

Captain Says He Saw U-Boat Sink Hesperian

British Skipper, Arriving at Newport News, Asserts Same Submarine Chased His Vessel When He Sought to Aid Stricken Liner.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Newport News, Va., Sept. 23.—The Allan Line steamer Hesperian was sunk by a German submarine and not by a floating mine, according to Captain Smellie, master of the British steamer Crosby.

Captain Smellie declares he witnessed the vessel's sinking and asserts that the same submarine immediately chased the Crosby for several hours. He escaped, he says, only in the darkness, by driving his ship at the utmost speed, without lights and steering a zig-zag course and then a wide circle.

The Hesperian was torpedoed without warning on the night of September 4, and twenty-six lives lost.

The statements of Captain Smellie are contained in an official report made to the British authorities on his arrival here on Monday.

The report, it is said, will later be submitted to the United States government in refutation of the official German statement. Berlin disclaimed responsibility on the grounds that there were no German submarines in the vicinity.

A copy of the report could not be secured for publication, as the original was forwarded immediately on the arrival of the vessel, but discussing the matter yesterday, Captain Smellie stated that he sailed from London for Newport News in ballast on August 31. Late in the afternoon of September 4, he said, he sighted a large passenger and freight liner, which he afterwards learned was the Hesperian, a few miles ahead and off the starboard bow.

Just before dark, he said, the big vessel suddenly gave a great lurch and a body of water seemed to engulf her, and she slowly began to sink by the head. At first, he said, he thought the vessel had struck a floating mine, as he had sighted neither hostile ships nor submarines in the vicinity. He started to her assistance, but as he circled toward her a submarine came to the surface and headed direct for the Crosby.

TO ASK AID FOR ARMENIANS

Banished People To Be Helped Like Belgians.

Washington, Sept. 23.—Reports from Ambassador Morgenthau at Constantinople to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions on the plight of Armenians banished to isolated towns for alleged hostility to the Turkish government will be the basis of a nation-wide appeal to the American people for assistance like that given to the homeless Belgians.

This appeal, it was learned to-night, will be issued from New York after the report of Charles R. Crane and James L. Barton, representing the commission, who conferred to-day with State Department officials.

The plan for sending help to the Armenians will be carried out by the government, for it is understood that the Turkish Foreign Office has let it be known that it will brook no interference with its policy from any foreign power.

KAISER A CORONER ON BATTLEFIELDS

Nothing Must Be Disturbed Until He Arrives.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Sept. 24.—"Kaiser Wilhelm is continually rushing along the fighting line day and night," says "The Chronicle," and so writes Gregori Petroff in the "Kusskoye Slovo," quoted by the Petrograd correspondent of "The Central News."

"Everywhere the Kaiser is attending meetings of generals. Night alarms are made for his advantage and night reviews of troops are held. He does really see everything in the army. He is disturbed on the scene of a big battle until he arrives—the field filled with dead, lines of trenches, damage to fortresses, all must remain as it was at the end of the fight until the Kaiser himself appears. He travels very swiftly. At Novo Georgievsk he arrived six hours after the capture of the fortress by the Germans."

"The first year has been worked for and many heroic deeds have been accomplished here recently," said he on that occasion, "but the last act remains unfinished, and if you will not all your former efforts and sufferings will be brought to naught. Overtake and destroy the Russian army now, or attempt will afterward be impossible."

WILSON GUARD TRIED TO BAR COL. HOUSE

Green Policeman Also Failed to Recognize Polk.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Sept. 23.—As Colonel E. M. House, friend and adviser of President Wilson, walked up the steps of the White House this morning he was stopped by one of the big policemen who guarded the entrance with "Say, come down out of there! Don't you know that you're not allowed to walk up those steps?"

Colonel House smiled, but kept on walking. The policeman had just started after him in a more or less threatening attitude, when the doors opened, and the doorman, with a deep bow, waved the colonel inside.

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ALLIES SEEK TO FORM NEW BALKAN PACT

Ask Powers' Pledge Not to Fight One Another.

GERMANS MASS 800,000 MEN

Nish Fears Large Force Is Available for Invasion.

BULGAR MOVE PUZZLE

London Hasn't Solved Mystery—Athens Awaits Sofia's Next Step.

London, Sept. 23.—"The riddle of the Balkans," as the London press terms the latest developments in the near eastern peninsula arising out of Bulgaria's order for mobilization, remains unsolved.

The greatest uncertainty still exists even in official circles in London as to the intentions of King Ferdinand and his advisers. In fact, it is not yet certain that the mobilization has begun or that a date has been set for it. One report from Athens says that the mobilization has been postponed.

It is known, however, that the Entente representatives at Sofia and other Balkan capitals are still busy trying to reconstruct the Balkan league and thus prevent Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia from fighting among themselves. As the Bulgarian government appears to have made up its mind, despite some opposition, it seems likely that these diplomatic efforts will have many difficulties to overcome.

The central powers have already begun their attempt to make their way through Serbia and one of the intervening neutral countries to the Aegean. With Russia more than holding her own against the Austro-Germans in Galicia and Volhynia, it is believed here that the Balkan powers would hesitate before going contrary to the wishes of their big neighbor and former protector.

Reports from Nish say that the best information obtainable indicates that there are 800,000 German troops available for an attempt to force a passage through Serbia.

Teutons Still Feeling Way.

It is felt in Nish that this movement will be undertaken, although when is not known. The operations thus far are still of a character that indicates that the Teutons are feeling out the Serbian positions.

Dispatches from Greece say that up to midnight on Wednesday twenty-eight classes of troops had been included in the Bulgarian mobilization ordered. The news has caused much excitement in Athens, and developments in the situation are anxiously awaited.

Geneva reports that 300 Bulgarian officers and men will leave Switzerland on a special train for Sofia on Friday, travelling by way of Austria.

"Other Balkan States Armed."

M. Mincoff, first secretary of the Bulgarian Legation, said to-day:

"Up to now we have been the only civilians in the armed camp of Europe. Rumania and Greece have been mobilized for a considerable time, and even Switzerland is under arms. Why, therefore, is it so astonishing that Bulgaria should follow suit? Why should mobilization mean any change in our national policy?"

"I am not prepared to make any prophecies, as they might fall of fulfillment, owing to unexpected developments. We must wait and see."

"At the best, the Bulgarian stroke marks the whole Balkan situation as urgent and immediate," says "The West-Minster Gazette." "This may not be a misfortune if it compels all the states, and the Allies with them, to come to definite decisions about the Bulgarian demands."

"The Germans are threatening to join the Austrians in another attack on Serbia. This may be partly a bluff, but it might be a serious reality. If Bulgaria were willing to throw her lot with the Turks and the Central Powers, then we should see the unleashing of incalculable forces throughout the peninsula."

"The German hypothesis that it is stated merely as an hypothesis and that it does not intend as 'yet to attribute any such design to King Ferdinand; nevertheless, it is worth while to get to the bottom of the matter.'"

Sofia, Sept. 21 (via London, Sept. 23).—The Bulgarian government announced to-day that no more passports would be issued to persons leaving for foreign countries, owing to the present uncertain conditions.

The military authorities announced that youths of the class of 1916 must appear for physical examination before October 20. The government has prohibited the exportation of all foodstuffs, fuel, illuminating oils, metals and textiles.

The newspaper organ of M. Guechoff, former Premier, who is prominent in the opposition faction which favors Russia, made an appeal to-day to the Opposition to rally in support of the government. Premier Radokoff has invited the speedy reconciliation of all political parties is probable.

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Samuel Hopkins Adams

If you ever bought one article and had another sent home, you know the endless annoyance that often follows. In next Sunday's Tribune Mr. Adams tells how one woman refused to be outwitted and how any person can obtain justice through the Bureau of Investigations. It's a helpful story of everyday buying—of equal interest to reasonable buyers and reputable shops.

The Sunday Tribune

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